

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 30, 2004, has been carefully reviewed, as well as the Advisory Action of April 15, 2005, and in view the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In particular, Applicants traverse the Examiner's consideration of the term "fasten" as being synonymous with "mount" which was earlier considered by the Examiner to be synonymous with "to be put into position." More particularly, Applicants note that the pending claims specifically recite "**releasably** fastened within the sterilization device," and the Examiner appears to have completely disregarded the additional limitation of releasability when interpreting fasten as synonymous with mount as in the cited prior art. As defined in the dictionary, fasten requires one to "attach firmly" or to "become attached, fixed or joined" -- none of which are required by a mere placing in position. Accordingly, the Examiner is kindly requested to specifically point out where the limitation of "releasably fastened within the sterilization device" is found in the cited prior art.

Further, Applicant again submits that there is a considerable difference between the sterilization chamber of the present invention and the sterilization container disclosed in *Spence*. Most notably, it would be apparent to one skilled in the art that the disclosed sterilization device of *Spence* must comprise a sterilization chamber in which the sterilization container is sterilized. If a sterilization chamber were not present in the sterilization device, there would be no steam sterilization process for the container, as discussed in *Spence* at col. 2, line 34. Further, the outside of the container is pressurized and the pressure is equalized by the filter means. As the container is exposed to a surrounding pressure, it is physically

impossible to selectively pressurize only the interior thereof. Hence, while the passage cited by the Examiner at col. 6, lines 34-37, refers to "the container and its contents", it is evident from a further reading of that text that both the inside and the outside of the container is pressurized -- hence supporting Applicants position that there must be a sterilization chamber surrounding the container.

CONCLUSION

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicants regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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